

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/767,254

Examiner

Richard Franklin

Applicant(s)

SENOO ET AL.

Art Unit

2181

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/30/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 6/23/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Fritz M. Fleming
FRITZ FLEMING
Supervisory PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 2100
492181 3/15/2006

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1 – 4 have been examined.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1 – 4 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1 – 4 are allowable because Applicants Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter AAPA) and the cited references fail to teach all the limitations of the claimed invention.

Figure 5 of AAPA teaches a controlling device connected to an IEEE1394 serial bus, the IEEE1394 serial bus connecting between the controlling device and an information reproduction apparatus, the controlling device comprising: an input device for entry of various operation commands for operating the information reproduction apparatus (AAPA; Page 1 Lines 21 – 23); a memory for memorizing status data regarding the information reproduction apparatus (AAPA; Page 2 Lines 12 – 14); and a processor for controlling the input device, and the memory (AAPA; Page 2 Lines 15 – 19); wherein, when an operation command is entered using the input device (AAPA; Figure 5 Item S109), the processor determines what kind of control command should be sent to the information reproduction apparatus based on the entered operation command and the status data memorized in the memory (AAPA; Figure 5 Item S110) and controls the IEEE1394 digital interface board to send the control command according to the determination to the information reproduction apparatus (AAPA; Figure

5 Item S111). Figure 5 of AAPA also teaches updating the status data in the memory (AAPA; Figure 5 Item S108) in response to a status inquiry command (AAPA; Figure 5 Items S106 – S107).

Figure 6 of AAPA teaches removing steps S105 – S108 of AAPA Figure 5 in order to eliminate the delay in receiving the status inquiry command response from the Information Reproduction Apparatus (AAPA; Page 3 Lines 1 – 8). This solution removes the step of storing the status data in the memory (AAPA; Figure 5 Step S108) and therefore, the determined command is based solely on the key that is pressed and not the key and status data (AAPA; Figure 6 Item S126, Page 3 Lines 1 – 8). Step S108 of AAPA Figure 5 is necessary to the claimed invention.

The combination of Figures 5 and 6 of AAPA would teach against the claimed limitation of when first and second operation commands are entered in succession using the input device, ***the processor updates the status data memorized in the memory on receipt of a response, from the information reproduction apparatus, indicating that a control command corresponding to the first operation command is normally accepted, without checking status of the information reproduction apparatus, and determines what kind of control command should be sent to the information reproduction apparatus in response to the second operation command, on entering the second operation command using the input device (emphasis added).***

Sato et al. US Patent No. 6,727,799 (hereinafter Sato) teaches a IEEE1394 network system with a controller that sends commands to an information reproduction apparatus. However, before a second command is sent, ***the controller sends a command to check the status of the information reproduction apparatus*** (Sato; Figure 8).

Mino et al. US Patent No. 4,731,677 (hereinafter Mino) teaches a controller with a keypad that has different keys (Mino; Figures 4 and 5 Item 18). Some of the keys (Mino; Figures 4 and 5 Items 18c and 18e) have more than one function depending on the previous key pressed (Mino; Col 3 Lines 19 – 34). However, ***Mino does not teach details of how the appropriate functions are determined by the controller or what commands are sent to the image reproducing apparatus.***

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard Franklin whose telephone number is (571) 272-0669. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fritz Fleming can be reached on (571) 272-4145. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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